

Amendments to the claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 4-8 and add the new claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

12. (New) A system mountable in a motor vehicle effective in preventing manipulation of a memory module functional in operating a control device of a component of said vehicle, comprising:

means for reading an identifier stored in a first memory module functional in operating said control device;

means for storing said identifier in a read only memory of said system;

means for reading an identifier stored in a second memory module intended to replace an installed memory module, functional in operating said control device; and

means for authenticating said second memory module by comparing the identifier of said second memory module with the identifier stored in said system memory.

13. (New) A system according to claim 12 wherein said system memory comprises a one-time programmable module.

14. (New) A system according to claim 12 including a microprocessor provided with said storing and authenticating means.

15. (New) A system according to claim 14 wherein said storing means of said system comprises a one-time programmable module.

16. (New) A system according to claim 15 wherein said storing means comprises a flash memory.

17. (New) A system according to claim 15 including means for encrypting data stored in said storing means which can be decrypted by a key comprising said identifier.

18. (New) A system according to claim 12 wherein said control device comprises one of a group consisting of the engine, transmission, turbocharger, oil cooler and brake control devices of said vehicles.

19. (New) A method of preventing manipulation of a memory module functional in operating a control device of a motor vehicle component, comprising:

storing a readable identifier in a first memory module functional in operating said control device;

reading said identifier stored in said first memory module by said system;

storing said read identifier in a system memory;

reading an identifier stored in a second memory module intended to replace said first memory module, by said system; and

authenticating said second memory module by comparing said identifier of said second memory with said identifier stored in said system memory, by said system.